

New Gifted Certification Requirements

Changes in gifted certification requirements become effective on August 1, 2017. The following are answers to some of the questions being asked about the new requirements.

1. Why was the gifted certification requirements changed?

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) conducted a review of all certification requirements with the intent to bring them all up to a standard that would result in a well-prepared professional teaching staff for Missouri. The gifted certification requirements were included as part of that review. It was determined that the requirements needed to be enhanced to ensure that people being certified in gifted were the most qualified people possible working with gifted students.

2. What changes were made to the gifted certification requirements?

The changes to the certification requirements are that a candidate must take a course in each of the five designated gifted content areas; 1) Survey of Gifted and Talented Education, 2) Program Planning and Development: An Understanding of Administration and Supervision of gifted programs, 3) Screening, Assessing, and Evaluating Gifted Students, 4) Curriculum and Instruction for the Gifted, and 5) Meeting the Affective Needs of Gifted Students. Also, the practicum will now need to be done in elementary AND secondary settings as the certificate is a K-12 endorsement. This has the effect of increasing the total hours required to obtain certification by 6 credit hours.

A complete description of all of the new certification requirements can be found on the DESE gifted web page in the Quick Links' Section: <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/qs-Gifted-certification-requirements-2017.pdf>.

3. Is a temporary authorization (TAC) or provisional certificate in gifted still an option?

If you already hold a valid Missouri professional teaching certificate:

Yes, you may obtain a temporary authorization (no limitation on deficiencies) or provisional (if within 12 hours of completing the requirements) certificate in gifted.

A temporary authorization certificate is a one-year, renewable certificate that requires 9 semester hours of college credit each year in order to be renewed. When the requirements are completed, the individual receives a professional certificate.

4. If I have started my coursework prior to August 1, 2017, do I have to meet the existing requirements or do I have to meet the new requirements?

If you have begun your certification coursework prior to August 1, 2017, and were on a provisional or a temporary authorization certificate under the old requirements, you would be allowed to finish the old requirements if you did so by the expiration date of your provisional or temporary authorization certificate.

However, if you started taking gifted courses without obtaining a provisional or temporary authorization certificate in gifted, you could not start taking courses and finish under the old requirements after August 1, 2017 even if you took your first course prior to August 1, 2017.